

Use of Indigenous Iron and Steel Products

479. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce "Buy Indian Act" wherein usage of only indigenous iron and steel products will be allowed for domestic projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any other countries have enacted such legislation to protect domestic industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether enactment of such legislation is allowed under the WTO Agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) The domestic steel industry has been representing to the Government for introduction of "Buy Indian Act", on the lines of the "Buy American Act". The objective of this Act is to encourage the growth and development of indigenous industry by giving constructive preference in Government procurement.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. To encourage the purchase of domestically manufactured products by the Federal Government, the USA have the "Buy American Act". It is our understanding that the US policy on procurement of goods by Government is based on the Buy American Act of 1933 and the plurilateral Agreement on Government Procurement under the 1994 WTO.

Resentment amongst the Officers of Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited

480. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the resentment amongst the officers of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited, one of the prestigious and profit earning Government of India undertakings for not getting equivalent pay scales as are being given to other PSUs like IOC, NTPC, BHEL etc.;

(b) whether it is a fact that a representation to that effect has been submitted to the CMD of the undertaking by the PWTUC; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

[26th February, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (c) The Professional Workers Trade Union Centre of India to which the Kudremukh Officers Association is affiliated has submitted a representation dated 24th January, 2001 to CMD, Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) regarding deficiencies in the pay revisions of officers of KIOCL. A copy of the representation has also been sent to Ministry of Steel.

During the finalisation of the pay scales for Supervisors and Executives detailed discussions were held with the representative of the Kudremukh Officers Association by the management of KIOCL. Only after reaching an understanding with the Kudremukh Officers Association, the pay revision proposal was approved by KIOCL Board and by Government. KIOCL implemented the revised pay scales in respect of Executives and Non-unionised Supervisors much earlier to the other organisations referred to i.e. OIC, BHEL and NTPC.

Profits/Losses Making Steel Plants

†481. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of steel manufacturing undertakings running under public and private sectors making profits/losses, separately, during the last three years and as on date;

(b) the quantum of losses suffered by each of the undertakings during the said period and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to turn the steel plants into profit-making; and

(d) the extent to which the Indian steel industry is capable of meeting the domestic consumption and demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) The profit/loss of the two public sector steel manufacturing undertakings i.e. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) during the last three years and current year is given below. Financial performance of the private sector steel plants is not Centrally monitored by the Government.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.